

Amendment Dated August 31, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Device [(10)] comprising:

a housing wherein is accommodated a radio-frequency contactless communication station [(comprising)] having an antenna [(12)] for communicating electromagnetically (E) in a remote manner with a data medium [(18)], more particularly in the form of a card, carried by a user, said housing having a communication area close to the antenna [(12)] which is permeable to electromagnetic waves, the user being required to bring the data medium [(18)] close to the communication area [(16)] to enable communication between the station and said medium, [(characterized in that)] wherein the communication area comprises an external surface [(16)] inclined to a horizontal plane, said communication surface [(16)] co-operating with means [(22)] for holding the data medium [(18)] against the communication surface [(16)].

2. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [(the preceding)] claim 1, [(characterized in that)] wherein the holding means have a lower transverse retaining surface [(22)] that extends forward globally perpendicularly from the bottom of the communication surface [(16)] to prevent the data medium [(18)] sliding downward.

Amendment Dated August 31, 2005

3. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [the preceding] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the communication surface [(16)] cooperates with a transverse rim [(20)] that extends longitudinally and perpendicularly from the communication surface [(16)] and whose upper face [(22)] forms the lower retaining surface.

4. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, [characterized in that] wherein the communication surface [(16)] is slightly inclined relative to a vertical plane so that the data medium [(18)] is held pressed against the communication surface [(16)] by its own weight (P).

5. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [any one of] claim[s] 2 [to 4], [characterized in that] wherein the holding means include two parallel lateral uprights [(26)] that project from the communication surface [(16)] and extend perpendicularly upward from each of the edges [(28)] of the retaining surface [(22)], the uprights [(26)] being spaced by a distance globally equal to a transverse dimension of the data medium [(18)] to delimit, with the retaining surface [(22)], a receiving location intended to receive the data medium [(18)] and encompassing at least a portion of the communication surface [(16)].

6. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, [characterized in that it] wherein said device includes means [(26)] for preventing objects significantly more bulky than the data medium [(18)] from being placed on the retaining surface [(22)].

Amendment Dated August 31, 2005

7. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [[the preceding]] claim 1, [[characterized in that]] wherein the retaining surface [(22)] has a longitudinal width globally equal to the longitudinal thickness of the data medium [(18)].

8. (currently amended) Device [(18)] according to [[either]] claim 6 [[or claim 7 in combination with claim 4]], [[characterized in that]] wherein the angle (α) of inclination of the communication surface [(16)] to the vertical direction is less than a limiting angle so that an object [(32)] whose center of gravity (G) is substantially offset longitudinally forward relative to the center of gravity (G) of the data medium [(18)] tilts relative to the retaining surface [(22)].

9. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [[any one of]] claim[[s]] 2 [[to 8]], [[characterized in that]] wherein the retaining surface [(22)] includes means for evacuating liquids liable to flow from the communication surface [(16)] as far as the retaining surface [(22)].

10. (currently amended) Device [(10)] according to [[the preceding]] claim 9, [[characterized in that]] wherein the retaining surface [(22)] has liquid evacuation orifices at least at its edges [(28)].

11. Device [(10)] according to [[the preceding]] claim 10, [[characterized in that]]

Amendment Dated August 31, 2005

wherein the retaining surface [[(22)]] has a transverse declivity to encourage the flow of liquid toward the evacuation orifices.

12. (currently amended) Device [[(10)]] according to claim 9, [[characterized in that]] wherein the retaining surface [[(22)]] is formed by at least two lugs that extend perpendicularly forward from the communication surface [[(16)]].